



## Children's Mental Health Waiver

April 2010

### Waiver Goals and Objectives

- Keep youth with serious emotional disturbance that need mental health treatment in their home communities with their parents/families involved in all aspects of their treatment - preventing custody relinquishment.
- Strengthening families' skills to support the physical, emotional, social, and educational needs of their children.
- Provide non-clinical mental health support services as part of the overall children's mental health system of care.
- Reduce, and in some cases, prevent the length of psychiatric hospital stays.

### Youth to be Served

- Are between the ages of 4-20
- Meet the definition of serious emotional disturbance
- Have a DSM Axis I or ICD diagnosis
- Meet at least one Medicaid criteria for inpatient psychiatric hospitalization
- Have a CASII composite score of 20-27
- Social/Emotional Assessment for kids ages 4-6
- Are financially eligible for Medicaid based on their own resources
- Must receive services provided by listed waiver providers – available in all counties.

*The CMHW program is a Medicaid program. Youth served by the waiver program receive all available Medicaid services while participating in the waiver program, in addition to the specific services offered through the waiver.*

**Sources of referrals to the program:** Physicians, Department of Family, Schools, Community Mental Health Centers, Community Mental Health professionals, Developmental Preschools & other Human Services Agencies

### Waiver Services Offered through the Program

Waiver services are non-clinical services provided as outlined in an Individual Service Plan meant to support and enhance mental health services provided by local/regional practitioners, both public and private.

- **Family Care Coordination** - services that advocate for and support youth and family in utilizing the Children's Mental Health Waiver to the fullest benefit possible.
- **Youth & Family Training and Support** - training and services for waiver participants and/or individuals (family members, neighbors, friends, companions) who provide uncompensated care, training, guidance, companionship, or support for the youth served. Specific training for the youth may involve on-on-one services and activities identified in the Individual Service plan to support and enhance the overall service goals (may include such things as recreational activities, exposure of youth to new ideas and experiences, skills training specific to age and behavioral needs).
- **Respite** - Provision of this service is to allow for some relief of the primary caregiver (service units have a set limit of 1664 units per year). Currently the Waiver program is developing the certification process for Waiver respite providers with agency affiliation (Therapeutic Foster Care, Residential Treatment Facilities, Youth Crisis Centers, Community Mental Health Centers and DD agencies certified to provide respite)

### Key Contact information for the Program

**Sarah Compton, Program Specialist** | [sarah.compton@health.wyo.gov](mailto:sarah.compton@health.wyo.gov) | Tel.: 307-777-5061  
**Terri Meyer-Sipe, Waiver Project Coordinator** | [terri.meyer-sipe2@health.wyo.gov](mailto:terri.meyer-sipe2@health.wyo.gov) | Tel.: 307-777-3352  
**Children's Mental Health Waiver /WDH Mental Health Division**  
6101 Yellowstone Road, Suite 220 | Cheyenne, WY 82002 | Tel.: 307-777-5061 | Fax: 307-777-5580  
CMHW website | <http://www.health.wyo.gov/mhsa/treatment/waiverindex.html>